

North Carolina Department of Transportation
PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION FORM
T.I.P. No. R-3620

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. Consultation Phase: Right of Way
- B. Project Description: Proposed NC 32 Connector from US 64 to the Intersection of NC 32 and NC 94, Washington County
- C. Federal Project: STP-000S(252)
WBS Element: 34548.1.1
- D. Document Type: EA March 31, 2009
FONSI April 29, 2010

II. CONCLUSIONS

The above environmental document has been reevaluated as required by 23 CFR 771. It was determined that the current proposed action is essentially the same as the original proposed action. Proposed changes, if any, are noted below in Section III. It has been determined that anticipated social, economic, and environmental impacts were accurately described in the above referenced document(s) unless noted otherwise herein. Therefore, the original Administrative Action remains valid.

III. CHANGES IN PROPOSED ACTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Since the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was approved in 2010, a couple of design changes have been made to this project. Due to the inherent safety risk associated with using guardrail on two-lane facilities, NCDOT sought and obtained concurrence from the Merger team to use 4:1 side slopes instead of 3:1 side slopes between Stations 12+00 and 44+80 and Stations 90+00 and 119+00, which are both wetland areas. This led to a small increase in wetland impacts over the 3:1 side slope option (11.9 acres vs. 11.3 acres), but overall, wetland impacts have decreased since the Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative (LEDPA) was selected.

In addition, since NC 32 serves as a bicycle route for both the statewide Ports of Call Route and the regional Bicycling the Pamlico route, the width of the paved shoulder was widened to 4-feet in order to accommodate cyclists.

Natural Resources:

The total updated wetland and stream impacts for project R-3620 are listed in Table 1. The impacts have decreased since approval of the FONSI as the design plans have been refined.

Table 1: Summary of Anticipated Impacts to Wetlands and Surface Waters

<u>Resource</u>	<u>Impact</u>
Wetlands	11.9 acres
Streams	120 linear feet

As of September 22, 2010, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) lists two (2) federally protected species for Washington County (see Table 2): the American alligator and the red wolf. The biological conclusion for the American alligator is not applicable. The biological conclusion for the red wolf is "May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect". This means that there is habitat present for the red wolf. NCDOT does not conduct surveys for the red wolf; information on this species comes from the USFWS.

The Bald eagle was removed from the Endangered Species List on August 8, 2007. It is, however, protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. A 660-foot survey of the project study area that is located within one mile of the Albemarle Sound found no nests within the project limits, and no nesting and foraging habitat. Additionally, during the September 13, 2011 survey, no bald eagles were observed.

A review of the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program (NCNHP) database, updated August 2011, indicated no occurrences of protected species within one mile of the project study area.

Table 2: Federally Protected Species of Washington County

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	Habitat	Biological Conclusion
American Alligator	<i>Alligator mississippiensis</i>	T(S/A)	No	N/A
Red wolf	<i>Canus rufus</i>	E	Yes	MANLAA

T(S/A) – Threatened due to similarity of appearance.

E – Endangered (a species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range)

IV. LIST OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS

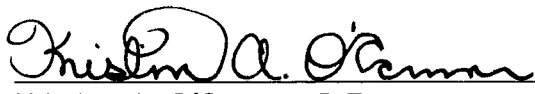
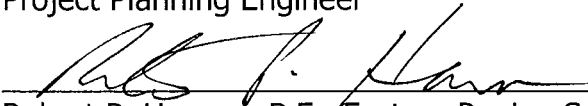
NCDOT will implement all practical measures and procedures to minimize and avoid environmental impacts. See attached list of Project Commitments.

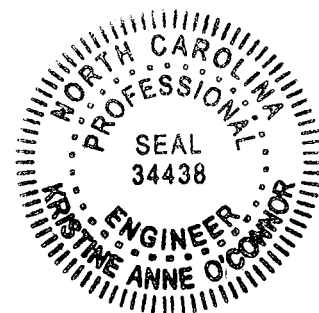
V. COORDINATION

Project Development and Environmental Analysis Unit personnel have discussed current project proposals with others as follows:

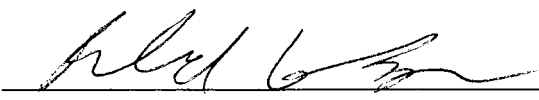
Design Engineer:	Gary Lovering, P.E.	<u>12/5/11</u> Date
Permits Specialist:	Chris Manley	<u>9/14/11</u> Date
Hydraulics Engineer:	Galen Cail, P.E.	<u>12/1/11</u> Date
FHWA Area Engineer:	Ron Lucas, P.E.	<u>12/5/11</u> Date

VI. NCDOT CONCURRENCE

 Kristine A. O'Connor, P.E. Project Planning Engineer	<u>1-3-2012</u> Date
 Robert P. Hanson, P.E., Eastern Region Section Head Project Development and Environmental Analysis Unit	<u>1/4/12</u> Date



VII. FHWA CONCURRENCE

 Division Administrator Federal Highway Administration	<u>1/5/12</u> Date
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PROJECT COMMITMENTS

**Proposed NC 32 Connector
From US 64 to the Intersection of NC 32 and NC 94
Washington County
WBS Project 34548.1.1
Federal Aid Project No. STP-000S(252)
TIP PROJECT R-3620**

COMMITMENTS DEVELOPED THROUGH PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND DESIGN

Project Development & Environmental Analysis Unit – Natural Environment Section

In order to remain consistent with the Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) Land Use Plan for Washington County, all mitigation for wetlands impacted within the county boundaries must be performed within Washington County, as opposed to any other county in North Carolina.

The Natural Environment Section Project Manager will coordinate with NCDOT's Indirect & Cumulative Impacts (ICI)/Onsite Mitigation Group and North Carolina Ecosystem Enhancement Program (EEP) personnel (if necessary) regarding the development of a suitable mitigation plan once the project design has been finalized and final impacts have been calculated.

Roadway Design Unit & Geotechnical Engineering Unit

Additional coordination with resource agencies regarding the use of undercut versus fill will take place prior to the Concurrence Point 4B meeting.

NCDOT's Roadway Design, Project Development & Environmental Analysis, and Geotechnical Units initiated a dialogue with the resource agencies via email and resolved this issue prior to the CP 4B meeting. It was determined that NCDOT will raise the grade of the existing facility in order to provide separation from the groundwater.

Roadway Design Unit

4-foot paved shoulders will be added to the typical section of the existing NC 32 that is being improved as part of this project in order to accommodate cyclists traveling on adjacent state and regional bike routes.

NCDOT's Roadway Design has added 4-foot paved shoulders to the project design.